

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea
SUBJECT POW Camps in North Korea

REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR. 31 March 1953

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POW Camp at YC-4652

1. In early December 1952 an estimated 300 ROK POW's were being held in three large, one-story buildings at YC-4652, near Ongjom-dong (N 38-24, E 125-49) (YC-4654). These prisoners were captured shortly after the North Korean invasion of South Korea in June 1950. The camp was guarded by 16 North Korean soldiers under the command of Lieutenant SO Tok-ch'ae (1776/1795/1371). There was much sickness among the prisoners because of the poor diet, inadequate clothing, and lack of medical care. An average of one prisoner died in the camp each week. In early December the prisoners were still dressed in summer clothes. The prisoners repaired roads in the area between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. From 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. they were given indoctrination courses in Communist ideology and a summary of current news. The prisoners had been told that after 2 years of education at the camp they would be allowed to enter the North Korean army.

POW Camp at YD-552233

2. On 11 December 1952 a POW Camp with 300 ROK POW's was at YD-552233, near Hwang-gyong-dong (N 39-02, E 125-58) (YD-5724), in about 30 houses.¹ Each house was surrounded by a cement wall. The camp included an area 300 meters by 250 meters which was enclosed by a fence. There were ruins of many destroyed buildings inside the camp. The POW's were moved to this camp by truck about 1 January 1952. North Korean soldiers disguised as POW's kept watch among the prisoners. One squad of North Korean soldiers guarded the camp. Civilians were forbidden to approach the camp. Medical treatment was provided by one North Korean army surgeon and four nurses. The POW's daily ration was 200 grams of polished rice,

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400 grams of grain, and vegetables. Both North Korean army and ROK army uniforms were worn by the prisoners. A newspaper printed in North Korea was distributed regularly to the POW's and was used as lesson material. Several North Korean army officers lectured on the history of the Communist Party, ROK and United States policy, and Soviet and North Korean governmental policy. Some prisoners professed to support the North Korean government. There was an average of two escaped prisoners per month.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1A
SUBJECT	1. Capture of an American Pilot in Sariwon 2. United Nations Plane Crash in the Haeju Area	DATE DISTR.	31 March 1953
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	NO. OF PAGES	1
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- On 5 November 1952 at 6:30 a.m., an American fighter plane was hit by an 85-mm. anti-aircraft gun over Sariwon (N 38-30, E 125-44) (YC-3864). The pilot parachuted to the ground safely at YC-3866 and was hidden in a house in the vicinity for 3 days. On 8 November the police came to the house and arrested both the pilot and the family that had hidden him and took them to the Sariwon police station.
- On 13 October 1952 at approximately 10 a.m., a United Nations plane crashed in the Haeju (N 38-02, E 125-42) (YC-3713) area. This plane was one of four which were making strafing and bombing runs on the area. Chinese Communist and North Korean soldiers and members of the North Korean Ministry of Social Security came to investigate the crash. The pilot was buried in the area and his personal effects were taken. The plane was stripped and the parts taken to a Japanese shrine at Okkye-dong (N 38-03, E 125-42) (YC-3714), Haeju. The parts were to be turned over to the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

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